

CENTRAL COAST LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NETWORK (CCLEAN)

Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2026, 2:00 pm

Via Teleconference Zoom Webinar

The meeting was called to order on January 28th 2026, at 2 pm by Jennie Munster. Roll call was taken of the voting committee members signed on to Zoom.

Participants – Voting Members: Present:

Anne Hogan, Wastewater System Manager: City of Santa Cruz

Jennie Munster, Laboratory Manager: City of Santa Cruz

Patrick Treanor, District Engineer: CAWD

Mohammed Serageldin, Laboratory Manager: CAWD

Olivia Woolery, Laboratory Supervisor: Monterey One Water (M1W)

Mike Crane, Water Quality Chemist: City of Watsonville

Connie Machuca, Laboratory Manager: City of Watsonville

Jeremy Long, Wastewater Division Manager: City of Scotts Valley

Voting Members: Absent:

Dave Martin, Environmental Compliance Inspector: City of Santa Cruz

Sarah Stevens, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Supervisor: Monterey One Water

Jose Guzman, Operations Manager: Monterey One Water

Laura Dale, EH&S Manager: Vistra Corp (Moss Landing Power Plant)

A quorum was present.

Participants – Non-Voting Members: Present

Aroon Melwani, Senior Scientist, Central Coast Managing Principal Partner: Applied Marine Sciences (AMS)

Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

Non-Voting Members: Absent

Dane Hardin, Senior Marine Scientist, Principal: Applied Marine Sciences

Sarah Crable, Water Resource Control Engineer: Central Coast Water Board

Cameron Kostigen Mumper, Associate Manager | Pure Water Soquel

Virtual Public Attendees: None

1. **Appearances/Public Comments:** *No Public Appearances / Public Comment*

2. **Agenda Changes:**

None.

3. **Agenda Items:**

A. Introductions:

Attendees were noted and there was a quorum.

B. Chair's Report by Santa Cruz Representative

<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No specific CCLEAN updates at this time.• Annual reporting season is underway.• The DMR submission system remains non-operational (to be discussed further under Water Board Report).
<p><u>Decision:</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u></p> <p>None</p>

C. Review of Prior Meeting Minutes

<p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Patrick Treanor presented the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes.</p> <p>Patrick disclosed that he has been using ChatGPT as a tool to assist with drafting meeting minutes, utilizing the Zoom transcript and agenda as inputs. He emphasized that all minutes are reviewed and edited prior to distribution.</p>
<p><u>Decision:</u></p> <p><i>Olivia Woolery motioned to approve the December 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.</i></p>
<p><u>Action Item:</u></p> <p>None</p>

D. Lead Agency Remarks

Patrick Treanor stated he had no additional remarks beyond the meeting minutes discussion.

E. Consider Approving Contingency Funds for Neonicotinoids Study Work

Discussion:

Aroon Melwani provided an overview of the proposal.

Background:

- Ongoing discussions with the Water Board regarding neonicotinoid analytical methods.
- Potential shift from current GCMS-based method (FISUS) to LCMS-based method (WEC).
- Proposal to conduct side-by-side method comparison during wet season sampling.

Proposal Summary:

- Perform side-by-side analysis for approximately 10 wet season water samples.
- Tissue samples cannot be included in the side-by-side.
- Estimated cost: **\$5,635** (approx. \$490 per split sample).
- Funds to come from contingency.

Additional Context:

- The Agricultural Waivers Program has already conducted similar side-by-side comparisons.
- AMS is seeking access to that dataset to compare across broader concentration ranges.
- This effort would provide calibration insight and continuity if a method shift occurs.

Discussion included:

- Clarification that the cost is additional to existing FISUS analyses.
- Confirmation that existing contingency funds can cover additional cost.
- Recognition that the study is optional but provides valuable transition data.

Decision:

- Jeremy Long motioned to approve up to approximately \$6,000 from contingency funds for the neonicotinoid cross-method study. Seconded by Patrick Treanor. Approved unanimously

Action Item:

- AMS to proceed with Neonicotinoids Study as presented.

F. Location of the Santa Cruz Effluent CCLEAN Sampler

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the appropriate effluent sampling location for the City of Santa Cruz under CCLEAN.

Background

Santa Cruz currently has two monitoring locations:

- **Outfall 001A** – Secondary effluent only
- **Outfall 001B** – Combined secondary effluent plus reverse osmosis (RO) reject water from the Pure Water Soquel project

The Committee previously identified the need to clarify which location should serve as the official CCLEAN effluent monitoring point.

Discussion

Jennie Munster summarized that:

- 001B represents the full discharge to the ocean, inclusive of the Pure Water Soquel reject stream.
- Although the reject water constitutes a relatively small percentage of total flow, it is part of the final combined discharge.
- When reject flow is not present, 001B effectively represents secondary effluent only.

Sarah Bragg-Flavan confirmed that:

- Monitoring at 001B would capture both combined flow and secondary-only conditions, as applicable.
- From a regulatory standpoint, monitoring the full combined discharge is appropriate.

The Committee generally agreed that:

- **001B is the appropriate CCLEAN effluent monitoring location**, as it reflects the actual discharge to the receiving water.
- Sampling at 001B ensures inclusion of any influence from RO reject associated with Pure Water Soquel.

Coordination

Aroon Melwani stated that AMS would coordinate directly with:

- City of Santa Cruz operations staff
- Integral (field sampling team)
- Relevant plant personnel

Decision:

- 001B is the appropriate CCLEAN effluent monitoring location

Action Item:

- Jennie indicated she would connect AMS with operations staff and include Robbie (Santa Cruz staff familiar with the composite system combining 001A and RO reject flows) to ensure proper setup and understanding of the sampling configuration.

G. Discuss Addition of Soquel Creek Water District as Member of CCLEAN

Discussion:

Discussion focused on whether Soquel Creek Water District (Pure Water Soquel) should become a voting member.

Key Points Raised:

Monterey One Water Concerns (Olivia Woolery):

- Soquel Creek does not currently hold an NPDES permit like other members.
- Concern about allowing voting authority on permit-driven monitoring requirements to non-permit holders.
- Concern about precedent if additional desalination or brine dischargers (e.g., Cal-Am, Marina Coast Water District, Salinas Valley GSA) seek membership.

Additional Discussion:

- Patrick added that CCLEAN originated as a permit-driven collaborative requirement.
- The MOU (Paragraph 5) allows membership upon unanimous approval and payment of buy-in fees.
- There is a distinction between:
 - Member of CCLEAN
 - Voting member of the Steering Committee
- If future dischargers join under joint NPDES permits, representation becomes more complex.
- Some members expressed that proportional flow contribution may justify voting rights.
- Others noted potential conflicts if entities without permit obligations influence permit-driven decisions.

Water Board perspective:

- Participation in CCLEAN is considered beneficial and collaborative.
- CCLEAN may eventually transition into its own MRP, separate from permit attachments.
- Permit structures could evolve (e.g., joint permits).

Decision:

Committee consensus was to **table the decision** to allow time for:

- Internal discussions within agencies.
- Further review of the MOU language.
- Consideration of clarifying membership and voting provisions.

Action Item:

Item will return at a future meeting.

H. Program Director's Report

Discussion:

Wet Season Sampling

- Preparations underway.
- Sampling will begin after:
 - Finalizing Santa Cruz effluent sampling location (001B).
 - Implementation of neonicotinoid side-by-side study.
- Target sampling: Late February (weather dependent).
- AMS will coordinate with Integral and agency staff.

Annual Report Status

- EDDs for 2024–2025 distributed.
- Awaiting Scotts Valley flow data to complete load calculations.
- Targeting March for annual report draft completion.

Phase 4 Update

Aron provided detailed update on remaining Phase 4 components:

Completed/Underway:

- Influent vs. effluent comparisons.
- Nutrient indicator analysis (silica, urea, TSS).
- FIB analyses.

Remaining Analyses:

1. Power Analysis (Effluent Sampling Frequency)
 - Evaluate whether reduced sampling frequency could maintain trend detection capability.
 - Goal: Identify potential cost savings while maintaining program integrity.

2. Benthic Sampling Interval Review

- Evaluate whether current 5-year interval captures observed community shifts.
- Assess optimal interval for ecological change detection.

3. Higher Trophic Level Literature Review

- Limited recent data available (marine mammals, otters, etc.).
- Existing data not accessible or not yet published.
- Conclusion: Not informative for current Phase 4 decisions.
- Recommendation: Table this component.

Committee consensus supported prioritizing trend analysis and optimization recommendations.

Timeline

- Full Phase 4 memo targeted for February distribution, ahead of next meeting.
- Annual report drafting to follow (March–April).

Additional Discussion

Patrick requested inclusion of longer-term trend visualizations (time series) for nutrient and related indicators.

Aroon agreed to evaluate adding trend graphics where data completeness allows.

Discussion also touched on potential removal of offshore buoy TSS and bacteria sampling if Phase 4 supports it.

Decision:

None

Action Item:

None

I. CCLEAN Topics or Questions for Water Board Staff

Discussion:

Jennie indicated she would follow up with Sarah offline regarding DMR issues.

Decision:

None

Action Item:

None

J. Water Board's Report

Discussion:

Sarah Bragg-Flavan reported:

- CAWD and Monterey One Water permits anticipated before the Board in August.
- Scotts Valley targeted for October.
- Draft permits expected at least 60 days prior to Board hearings.

CWIQS / DMR Issue

- DMR system remains non-operational.
- Notice appears on CWIQS login page (not on bookmarked login links).
- No timeline yet for repair.
- Agencies should notify Sarah of any CWIQS reporting date errors (often box-selection issues in system configuration).

Decision:

None

Action Item:

None

K. Financial Report

Discussion:

Patrick Treanor reviewed current financial statements.

Highlights:

- All member invoices paid to date.
- No AMS invoice received yet for current quarter.
- Contingency funds remaining available (minus new neonicotinoid allocation).
- Invoice routing issue at Monterey One Water corrected (Olivia now listed).

No additional financial concerns noted.

Decision:

None

<u>Action Item:</u>
None

L. General Announcements

<p>Lab Manager Coordination</p> <p>Connie Machuca (Watsonville) offered to host a lab manager meeting and working lunch to improve inter-agency communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watsonville willing to host and provide catering.• Focus topics may include ELAP compliance and certification support.• Connie to circulate scheduling poll. <p>Committee expressed strong support.</p> <p>Offshore Deployment Question</p> <p>Watsonville inquired about February offshore deployments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placeholder dates exist on lab calendar.• AMS targeting late February sampling (weather dependent).• Phase 4 may recommend reduction or relocation of offshore sampling in future.
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M. Next Meeting Date:

February 25th at 2:00 PM was the next scheduled meeting for the steering committee.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Jennie Munster adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.*